

Local Implementation Programs

Weed Management Areas Partnerships in Action!



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El Dorado County and Lake Tahoe Basin
Invasive Weed Management Groups



California Weed Management Areas

- Weed Management Area (WMA) are:
 - Coalitions of diverse stakeholders
 - Identifying common goals
 - Coordinating efforts to utilize resources efficiently
 - Forty-five (45) WMAs covering the entire state

California Weed Management Areas

■ History

- Local WMA groups began forming - mid-90's
- Statewide program created in 1999
- Originally funded via legislation
 - AB 1168 (Frusetta) \$500,000 1999-2002
 - SB 1740 (Leslie) \$5 million 2000-2004
- Lead – Calif. Dept. of Food and Agriculture
- Funding has been matched 3:1!

Weed Management Area Activities

- Mapping and surveying
- Strategic planning and prioritization of weed species
- Control and eradication
- Awareness and education



Weed Management Area Activities

- Mapping and Surveying



Control and Eradication Projects 2000-2004

- Over 128,000 acres have been treated in CA
- Utilizing a variety of control techniques
- Monitored and documented success

Mechanical Controls



Hand pulling projects



Mechanical Controls



Before – blackberry, purple loosestrife, edible fig



After

Chemical treatments



Tree of Heaven – drill injection



Spotted knapweed work

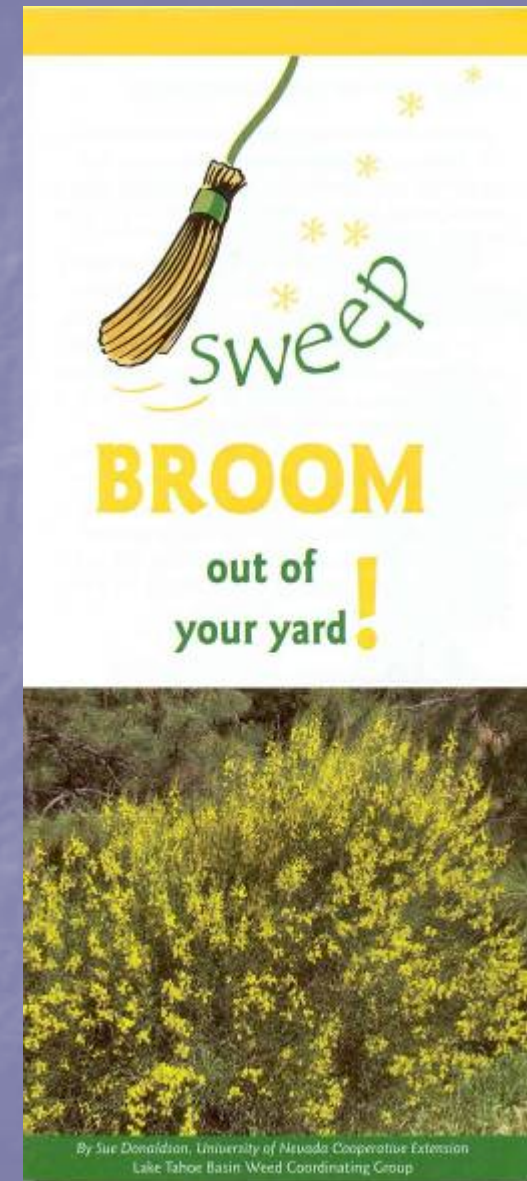


Yellow starthistle control project

Cultural Controls



Scotch broom removal – South Lake Tahoe



Cultural Controls



Utilizing goats - Catalina Island Conservancy

Documentation of success!

- Recovery of habitat by removing *Arundo donax*



Recovery of Least Bell's Vireo After Suppression of *Arundo Donax* (Giant Reed) in California



The Santa Ana River Basin in Southern California ranges through San Bernardino, Riverside and Orange counties. It is home to willows, cottonwoods, shrubs and forbs, all of which provide excellent habitat for many wildlife species, including the least Bell's vireo, a small songbird that was once commonly found in the region. The bird is now listed as an endangered species because of habitat destruction.



The least Bell's vireo requires a diverse group of native plants for habitat and food supply.

Challenge: More than 10,000 acres of the basin had become infested with *Arundo Donax* or giant reed. This invasive plant formed a monoculture in some areas, choking out traditional plant species and destroying habitat for the least Bell's vireo and other songbirds. Giant reed is a poor food source for native birds, and increases fire risk to communities, and consumes nearly three times as much water as native vegetation.

Solution: The Riverside County Parks and Open Space District partnered with the Orange County Water District, Resource Conservation Districts in Riverside and San Bernardino counties, and the Santa Ana Water Project Authority to restore the land and restore habitat for the endangered least Bell's vireo. Together, they are working to remove giant reed from the Santa Ana River Basin using a combination of mechanical and chemical methods.

Result: Giant reed was controlled in many parts of the Santa Ana river basin, allowing portions of the river to return to its normal meandering pattern, recreating the necessary substrata for willows and cottonwoods to grow. To date, 3,000 acres of native habitat have been restored.

The restoration created nesting and feeding grounds for the least Bell's vireo. In 1986, there were only 19 nesting pairs of the endangered songbird in the area. By 2004, there were 413 nesting pairs and 767 fledglings. This can be attributed to the removal of the giant reed and the restoration of native habitat.



Arundo Donax forms a monoculture that eliminates needed native vegetation.



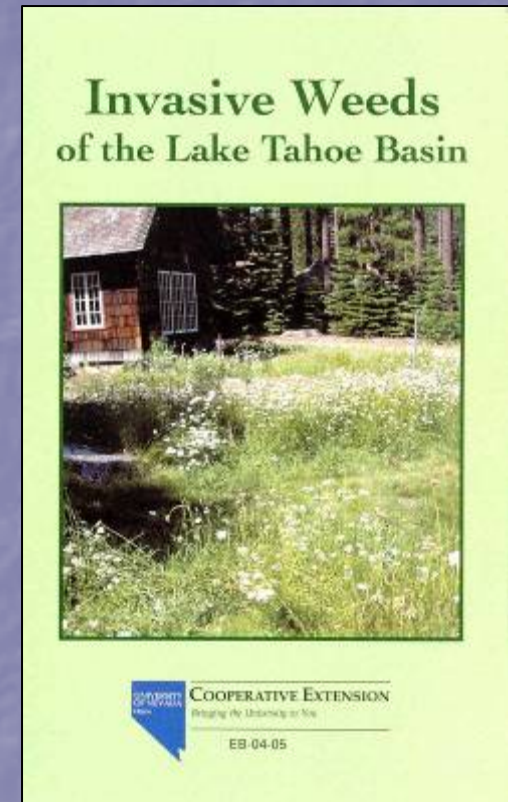




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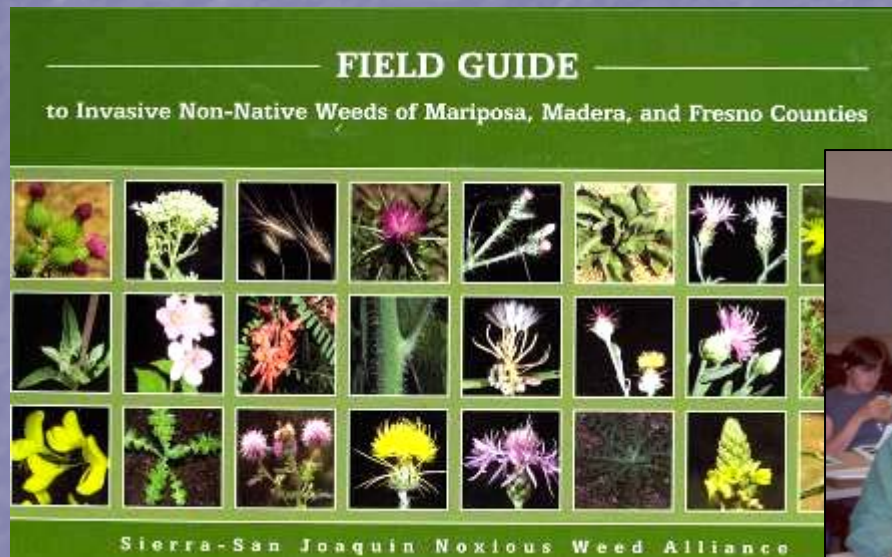
Awareness and Education

- General public



Awareness and Education

Identification Training and Prevention Practices



USFS and conservancy crews

Awareness and Education

- Educate legislators and staff

Invasive Weeds
Awareness Day at
the Capitol



Awareness and Education

Reached
88,800
people
across
the state!



California Weed Management Areas

- Why they WORK!

- Local, grassroots, on-the-ground, can do!

- Very diverse representation that can agree on common goals!

Weed Management Areas

The Future

- Statewide infrastructure – continue to support and strength
- Expand volunteer network through education – early detection
- Identify sustainable funding
- Local partners will continue to work together